

SAN TAN PARK ENTRY STATION OFFICIALLY OPENED

Construction of the new entry station at San Tan Mountain Regional Park is near completion. A public ceremonial grand opening to celebrate this building took place Thursday, September 8.

Maricopa County Supervisors Fulton Brock, District 1, and Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5, were on hand to receive a generous check from the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). The Governor of GRIC, Richard Narcia, presented a \$250,000 grant to Maricopa County. That money has been earmarked for the county to erect a fence around the portion of the park that borders Gila River land. It has been proven that fencing helps protect property on either side from trespassing, dumping, shooting and illegal off-road vehicles.

Barnaby Lewis, GRIC Cultural Resources Specialist, presented the invocation and Gary Bohnee, Chief of Staff for the GRIC Executive Office, attended the ceremony. As hiking and equestrian trails are developed by Maricopa County, GRIC has been enlisted to confer a native language name for each trail. Nearby neighbors enjoy the unique beauty of the San Tan Park, as do visitors from around the world.

The entry station is over 2,000 square feet in structure, with areas for park offices, visitor lobby, and restrooms. A paved parking lot outside the facility will allow for 15 cars and two RVs. The building also houses a community room, available to residents who would like to reserve it for meetings, gatherings, and other events.

For more information about the park, call the Maricopa County Parks & Recreation department at 602-506-2930.

Consisting of over 10,000 acres, the southeast Valley park is a fine example of the lower Sonoran Desert. The park ranges in elevation from about 1,400 feet to over 2,500 feet. Goldmine Mountain is located in the northern area, with a spectacular San Tan Mountain escarpment in the southern portion of the park. The vegetation changes from "creosote flats" to dense saguaro forest. Various types of wildlife may be observed, including reptiles, birds, and mammals.